REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action dated October 12, 2005, Applicants have cancelled claim 20. Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 21-23, and 25-29 are indicated as allowed.

Claims 20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement. Claim 20 was cancelled herewith.

Claim 24 recites a method of treating an inflammatory disease, or a disease with an inflammatory component, where the disease is multiple sclerosis. The Examiner appears to base the rejection of claim 24 on the fact that MS is not an inflammatory disease and therefore both lacks antecedent basis and enablement. (The Examiner asserts that "claim 24 appears to lack antecedent basis" because the specification does not list multiple sclerosis as an inflammatory disease, but as one of the many diseases in which inhibition of IKK2 is beneficial.)

It is well known that multiple sclerosis is indeed an inflammatory disease. See, e.g., Weiner et al. *Arch Neurol.* 2004; 61: 1613-1615 (the first paragraph) and the abstract of Catalaa et al. *Am. J. of Neuroradiology* 1999, 20: 1613-1618, copies of which were provided in applicants previous reply to office action.

The Examiner cites the Merck index to support the assertion that MS is a slowly progressive CNS disease. Applicants do not disagree that MS is a disease of the central nervous system. In fact, the Catalaa article, cited above describes MS as "the most common inflammatory disease of the central nervous system."

The Examiner apparently believes that MS cannot be both a slowly progressive CNS disease and an inflammatory disease. However, the Examiner presents no evidence to support that these two characterizations are mutually exclusive. Applicants have submitted evidence that MS is in fact both a disease of the central nervous system AND an inflammatory disease. This evidence is consistent with the language quoted from the Merck index that "an immunologic abnormality is suspected" to be the cause of MS. In fact, the article authored by Weiner states that "it is now clear that the core process in MS is inflammatory, with T cells and their mediators triggering injury of axons and their myelin sheaths through a complex sequence of events. (See

Weiner, p. 1613.) In view of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the corresponding rejection.

Applicants further submit that all of the claims indicated allowable satisfy all statutory requirements for patentability and therefore request that the application be placed in condition for allowance.

Enclosed is a check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing attorney docket no. 06275-233001.

Respectfully submitted,

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